

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02664 01 OF 02 192303Z

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INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 EB-08 XMB-02 /065 W

-----109129 200000Z /66

R 192132Z AUG 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4964

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 2664

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, (YOUNG, ANDREW), TD, XL, EAID, ETRD, USUNGA

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S MEETING WITH TRINIDAD AND

TOBAGO PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS

SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 11 AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND FOX ACCOMPANIED BY MEMBERS OF YOUNG'S PARTY DINED WITH TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS, FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDSON AND OTHERS AND DISCUSSED THE CARIBBEAN AND NORTH/SOUTH RELATIONS. WILLIAMS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT EXIMBANK POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES RATHER THAN ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS WERE INVOLVED IN THE RESPONSE TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO'S INTEREST IN INCREASING STEEL PRODUCTION CAPACITY. DONALDSON COMMENTED THAT THE US RESPONDED ONLY TO CRISIS IN DEALING THE THE CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES -- WHICH SEEMED TO PUT IN QUESTION THE VALUE OF PRUDENCE. END SUMMARY.

2. AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND FOX, ACCOMPAINED BY VALDEZ, SHELTON, HORMATS AND EINAUDI HAD DINNER WITH PRIME MINISTER ERIC WILLIAMS AT HIS RESIDENCE ON AUGUST 11 1977. WILLIAMS WAS ACCOMPAINED BY MINISTERS DONALDSON, MAHABIN, CHAMBERS, MCLEAN, AND PADMORE PLUS AMBASSADOR
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02664 01 OF 02 192303Z

ABDULAH AND PERMANENT SECRETART BALLAH. AFTER EXCHANGING GREETINGS, YOUNG AND WILLIAMS TURNED TO THE CARIBBEAN AND THEN TO NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS GENERALLY.

3. THE CARIBBEAN: AFTER WILLIAMS OPENED BY NOTING THAT YOUNG'S RECEPTION IN TT WOULD BE AS WARM AS ANY HE WOULD RECEIVE ANYWHERE IN THE CARIBBEAN, YOUNG REVIEWED THE

PURPOSED OF HIS TRIP IN THE CONTEXT BOTH OF THE CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION AND OF THE ISOLATIONIST SENTIMENT PREVAILING IN MUCH OF THE US. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND, HE NOTED, THE RECENT BOGOTA MEETING HAD BEEN MOST HELPFUL TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S INTEREST IN EXPLORING NEW DIRECTIONS, NOT ONLY IN PANAMA, BUT IN THE CARIBBEAN AS WELL. WE HOPED, SAID YOUNG, TO BE ABLE TO STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY BY INCREASED COOPERATION, MUCH OF WHICH WOULD BE MULTILATERAL, ALTHOUGH BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS WOULD NOT BE EXCLUDED.

4. WILLIAMS ASKED REPEATEDLY HOW WE INTENDED TO DEFINE THE CARIBBEAN. WERE WE THINKING NOT ONLY OF COSTA RICA BUT OF FRENCH AND DUTCH TERRITORIES AS WELL? YOUNG RESPONDED THAT HE WOULD THINK THAT WE WOULD, ALTHOUGH OF COURSE OUR DESIGN WAS YET TO BE FULLY DEVELOPED, AND WOULD DEPEND IN LARGE MEASURE ON THE ADVICE WE WOULD RECEIVE FROM THE CARIBBEAN ITSELF. WILLIAMS REFUSED TO TAKE THE BAIT (HE LATER TOLD ONE MEMBER OF THE PARTY THAT HE HAD WRITTEN SO MUCH ABOUT HIS VIEWS THAT HE SAW NO NEED TO REPEAT HIMSELF, AND THAT IN ANY CASE THE TIME FOR HIS VIEWS ON CARIBBEAN INTEGRATION HAD NOT YET COME). WILLIAMS INSTEAD ASKED YOUNG TO EXPLAIN WHAT THE UNITED STATES NOW SAW IN THE WORLD AT LARGE. YOUNG ANSWERED BY REVIEWING HIS IMPRESSIONS OF SOME OF THE COUNTRIES VISITED THUS FAR. MEXICO, HE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 USUN N 02664 01 OF 02 192303Z

SAID, SEEMED SO BENT ON BECOMING A SUPERPOWER THAT IT ALMOST REFUSED TO TALK ABOUT ITS VERY REAL PROBLEMS. IN JAMAICA, MANLEY WAS NOW FOCUSING ON CONTAINING HIS OWN PARTY'S LEFT-WING AND GETTING READY TO GO BEYOND THE ELECTIONS. HE WAS SUSPICIOUS OF PAST US POLICY, AND THAT WAS UNDERSTANDABLE GIVEN THE TRAGEDY OF ERRORS WE HAD COMMITTED.

5. WILLIAMS INTERRUPTED: YOUNG HAD SAID ERRORS. DID WE MEAN TO IMPLY LACK OF PURPOSE? WHAT ABOUT INVESTMENT? YOUNG ANSWERED THAT JAMAICA HAD BEGUN BADLY ON THE FRONT, TRYING TO TAKE EVERYONE ON AT ONCE. OUR EXPERIENCE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT WAS THAT ONE DOES BEST BY TAKING COMPANIES ON ONE AT A TIME. JAMICIA HAD BEGUN IDEOLOGICALLY, AND FAILED. A MORE PRAGMATIC APPROACH WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, AND MANLEY NOW UNDERSTOOD THIS. BUT THE JAMAICANS HAD RUINED KINGSTON IN THE PROCESS. MOVING TO GUYANA, YOUNG NOTED THAT SIMILAR FACTORS HAD BEEN AT WORK, BUT THAT HE PERSONALLY FOUND IT QUOTE UN-BLACK UNQUOTE FOR THE GUYANAS TO CALL EACH OTHER QUOTE COMRADE UNQUOTE. BOTH GUYANA AND JAMAICA USED A LOT OF RHETORIC, AND THAT

TENDED TO SCARE EVERYONE OFF, PARTIUCLARLY THE BANKS.

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02664 02 OF 02 192325Z
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INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 XMB-02 EB-08 /065 W
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 2664

6. WILLIAMS COMMENTED THAT TT GOT ALONG WELL WITH THE US BANKS, BUT THAT THAT DID NOT PREVENT THE BANKS FROM OPPOSING THE TT POLICY OF LOCALIZATION. IN ADDITION, HE NOTED, SMALL COUNTRIES FREQUENTLY OBTAINED CONTRADICTORY SIGNALS FROM THE US AND FROM DIFFERENT SECTORS OF US SOCIETY. HOW COULD THEY PLAN UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES? WHAT WAS THE REAL PICTURE NOW? YOUNG ANSWERED THAT WE NEEDED TO CREATE ONE. WE HAD TO PREVENT POLITICAL ISOLATIONSIM FROM BEING SUPPORTED BY ECONOMIC ISOLATIONSIM. WE HOPED, HE SAID, TO GET THE PRESIDENT HIMSELF INVOLVED IN THE CARIBBEAN ON THE HEELS OF HIS FIRST FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESS IN PANAMA.

7. WILLIAMS ASKED HOW THIS INTERNATIONALIST STANCE SQUARED WITH YOUNG'S EARLIER COMMENT ABOUT US ISOLATIONSIM. HE NOTED THAT TT HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH BANKS, BUT THE US STEEL, BETHLEHEM, AND THE US LABOR MOVEMENT WERE QUITE A DIFFERENT STORY. THEY DID NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND TT'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS. IN FACT, AMERICANS GENERALLY SEEMED TO EXPECT TT'S NATURAL GAS TO BE USED TO HEAT HOMES IN TEXAS OR PERHAPS GEORGIA, WITH NO UNDERSTANDING THAT TT NEEDED TO DEVELOP ENERGY
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PAGE 02 USUN N 02664 02 OF 02 192325Z

INTENSIVE INDUSTRIES FOR ITS OWN PURPOSES. DOING SO
WOULD REDUCE POLITICAL OPPOSITION TO THE SALE OF NATURAL
GAS TO THE US BY WEAKENING THE ARGUMENT THAT TT IS NOT
USING ITS RESOURCES IN ITS OWN LONG-TERM INTERST.
HORMATS DESCRIBED THE PROBLEM OF UNDERUTILIZATION OF
STEEL PRODUCTION CAPACITY AND THE CONCERNS IT RAISED
ABOUT ADDING STILL MORE CAPACITY. WILLIAMS SAID THAT
ALL EXCEPT EX-IM SEEMED TO AGREE THAT THE TT
PLANT WOULD BE ECONOMIC, AND THAT IT APPEARED THAT
POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES BY EX-IM
RATHER THAN ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS WERE THE PROBLEM.
YOUNG AGREED TO TAKE THIS MATTER UP WITH EX-IM.

8. FM DONALDSON COMMENTED THAT CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES
GENERALLY FACE A DILEMMA IN DEALING WITH THE US. THIS
DILEMMA, WHICH SEEMED TO QUESTION THE VALUE OF PRUDENCE,
CENTERED ON THE FACT THAT THE US RESPONDED ONLY TO
CRISIS, AND NORMALLY BEHAVED TOWARD THE
CARIBBEAN IN AN EXTREMELY TRADITIONAL MANNER. FOR
EXAPMLE. COUNTRIES THAT WERE RADICAL
POLITICALLY FOUND THEMSELVES CUT OFF ECONOMICALLY. BUT
COUNTRIES THAT BEHAVED PRUDENTLY IN ECONOMICS
WERE IGNORED POLITICALLY AND BLOCKED BY US INTEREST
GROUPS. THE RESULT WAS THAT NO TACTIC SEEMED
PARTICULARLY SATISFACTORY TO BREAK THE RULES OF THE GAME
THAT MAINTAINED THE CARIBBEAN'S UNDERDEVELOPED STATUS.

YOUNG

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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